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The Architecture of a Modern Personal Computer:
Basic Hardware Configuration

1. Input-Output Bus
2. Communications (to Net, LAN, etc.)
3. "Read-only" devices
4. "Read-write" devices
5. "Write-only" devices

Standards-based interfaces:

1. Universal Serial Bus (USB), Bluetooth™ (if wireless), or IEEE RS232
2. SCSI, ATA (if internal), or FireWire™ (IEEE 1394)
3. PCI
4. TCP/IP via Ethernet, PPP (dial-up), or WiFi (IEEE 802.11b or 802.11g)
5. No long-term standard possible; fast-changing parameters

—proprietary "standards" are indicated in green; others are set by expert groups